

**SENATOR McCONNELL'S REMARKS ON THE NOMINATION OF JOVITA
CARRANZA TO BE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OF THE SBA
December 6, 2006**

Senators,

It is my distinct pleasure today to introduce Jovita Carranza, the President's nominee to be the deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration.

Jovita's experience of 30 years with UPS, coupled with a focused, determined personality that has enabled her to rise rapidly through the company's ranks, will make her a perfect candidate to lead an organization charged with helping America's small businesses succeed.

The SBA may focus on small businesses, but its mission is large, and important. Small and young businesses create two-thirds of the net new jobs in our economy, and they employ half of all private-sector workers. They are vital to our economic growth, and the leaders of the SBA must understand that. I'm happy to report to you that Jovita does.

Jovita recently retired as vice president of UPS air operations, where she worked in my hometown of Louisville, Kentucky, overseeing the company's air hub. UPS has invested billions of dollars in Louisville and employs over 17,000 people there.

Over 304,000 packages go through the Louisville hub every hour to be shipped all over the world. Many of those packages are sent by small businesses, who rely on UPS to compete nationally and globally.

In fact, small businesses formed one of Jovita's largest customer bases, and she has become fine tuned to small business needs. For her overwhelming success on the job, *Hispanic Business* magazine named her its 2004 Woman of the Year.

What makes Jovita's success all the more remarkable is when you realize she started with UPS 30 years ago part-time as a package handler. Within months she had been promoted to a supervisory position, and her ladder of success continued to ascend from there.

Jovita also served as president of Latin American and Caribbean Operations at UPS, and served in various managing positions for international and staff operations for UPS all over the country. And although she is a recent arrival to Louisville, she has already left a permanent imprint on her company and the community.

Jovita is a confirmed workaholic, as I'm sure she'll tell this Committee herself. Yet she still finds the time to serve others through volunteer service. She has served as a corporate board adviser for the United Way, specifically focusing on issues of continuing education.

She also serves on the Louisville Free Public Library Foundation Board, and has volunteered for youth-oriented organizations like Junior Achievement and the Boy Scouts. She has also worked with Habitat for Humanity and the YMCA.

Jovita originally hails from Chicago, although she has fit in so well in Louisville we don't hold that against her. She earned both her bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Miami.

She has also received executive, management, and financial training at the INSEAD Business School in Paris, the University of Michigan and the University of Chicago.

I am sure Jovita's husband, Joel Roque, and her daughter, Klaudene, are very proud of her for all she has accomplished so far, and for receiving this nomination.

Jovita understands that with her success in the business world, she has much to offer in the sphere of public service. I know she's eager to get started doing that, and she's honored to receive this nomination.

The President made the right choice by calling on Jovita for this assignment. She is well prepared for it. She understands the importance of small businesses to America, and she has the energy and the ability to act to make a difference on their behalf.

I am confident she has what it takes to excel as the next deputy administrator of the Small Business Administration. I appreciate this committee's expeditious handling of her nomination, and I look forward to her confirmation. Thank you for allowing me to testify on her behalf.